

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 13545 01 OF 05 231240Z

47

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 NEA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-04 ACDA-05 DPW-01 /082 W

----- 089876

R 231100Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9772

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB

CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER

COMUSMACTHAI

USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 5 SAIGON 13545

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 13545 01 OF 05 231240Z

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJ: VIETNAM WEEKLY CEASEFIRE ASSESSMENT, OCT 16-22, 1974

PART I - SUMMARY

MILITARY ACTIVITY DURING THE PAST WEEK WAS AGAIN AT A MODERATELY LOW LEVEL, CONTINUING THE RELATIVE CALM THAT HAS EXISTED FOR OVER A MONTH. THE SMALL NUMBER OF INCIDENTS WAS COMPARABLE TO A WEEK AGO AS WERE CASUALTIES, EVEN THOUGH GOVT LOSSES ROSE SLIGHTLY AND COMMUNIST DEATHS WERE SOMEWHAT LOWER. GENERALLY THE OVERALL SECURITY SITUATION IN THE FOUR MILITARY REGIONS REMAINED ABOUT THE SAME. A SINGULAR AND FROM THE GVN'S STANDPOINT SUCCESSFUL EXCEPTION TO THIS WAS NORTHERN BINH DINH PROVINCE IN MR-2, WHERE AN ASSAULT BY THE 41ST REGT OF THE ARVN 22ND DIV INTO THE AN LAO VALLEY ACHIEVED THE SEVERAL-MONTH GOAL OF INTERDICTING THE NVA NORTH-SOUTH SUPPLY ROUTE. GVN FORCES TO DATE HAVE SUCCESSFULLY WITHSTOOD COMMUNIST COUNTERATTACKS, AND REMAIN ON THE EASTERN SLOPE COMMANDING THE VALLEY. ALTHOUGH BAD WEATHER HAMPERED BOTH SIDES, THE GVN CONTINUED ITS EFFORT IN MR-1 NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS AGAINST MO TAU MOUNTAIN AND HILL 50. SOUTH OF THE PASS SAPPER ACTIVITY INCREASED IN QUANG NAM, WHERE THERE WERE ALSO CONSIDERABLE CONTACTS AND FIRE ATTACKS NORTH OF HILL 52. THE COMMUNIST EFFORT IN QUANG NGAI TO INCREASE THEIR CONTROL OVER LAND AND PEOPLE IS BEING PURSUED, AND 100 CIVILIANS WERE MOVED FROM EASTERN BINH SON TO THE WESTERN AREA OF THIS DISTRICT UNDER COMMUNIST CONTROL. CORPS OFFICIALS IN MR-2 JUDGE THE COMMUNISTS TO BE REGROUPING BECAUSE OF RECENT HEAVY LOSSES IN BINH DINH AND PLEIKU. IT IS ANTICIPATED, HOWEVER, THAT ATTACKS WILL RESUME SHORTLY, PROBABLY DIRECTED AGAINST Q.L. 19 AND PLEIKU CITY. CORPS INTELLIGENCE BELIEVES THESE ATTACKS WILL COME IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER. BINH DINH TERRITORIAL FORCES ARE BEING USED IN COMMANDO-TYPE RAIDS AGAINST THE AN LAO SUPPLY CORRIDOR IN SUPPORT OF THE SUCCESSFUL ARVN INTERDICTION EFFORT. IN PHU YEN PROVINCE COMMUNIST MILITARY ACTIVITY IS UNUSUALLY LOW FOR A HARVEST PERIOD. SABOTAGE AND TERRORISM WERE AGAIN THE MAIN FOCUS OF COMMUNIST ACTIVITY IN MR-3. CORPS IS PREDICTING THAT THIS WILL BE THE PRINCIPAL COMMUNIST EFFORT OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. AMONG THE FOUR BRIDGES HIT BY SAPPERS, THE MOST IMPORTANT WAS THE HOA

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 13545 01 OF 05 231240Z

AN BRIDGE, ONE OF THE TWO MAJOR ONES CONNECTING BIEN HOA AND SAIGON AND ALSO THE CAPITAL WITH THE MILITARY REGIONS TO THE NORTH. FIFTY METERS OF THE 805 METER SPAN WERE KNOCKED OUT OCT 21. THE MOST TRAGIC INCIDENT THIS WEEK OCCURRED IN LOC KHE HAMLET OF HAU NGHIA PROVINCE, WHERE A VC MINE WAS DETONATED NEXT TO A PRIMARY SCHOOL RESULTING IN THE DEATH OF FIVE CHILDREN WITH 17 OTHERS WOUNDED. THE GREATEST NUMBER OF TERRORIST INCIDENTS, HOWEVER, OCCURRED IN GIA DINH PROVINCE. IN MR-4 THE MID-MONTH PEAK WAS THE MOST MODERATE

OF THE LAST FEW MONTHS. AS THE WEEK PROGRESSED THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS TAPERED OFF IN WHAT HAS BECOME NORMAL FASHION TOWARDS THE END OF THE MONTH. IN THE NORTHERN DELTA MUCH OF THE VC/NVA ACTIVITY WAS DIRECTED AGAINST LOCS, WITHOUT ANY PARTICULARLY CONSEQUENTIAL RESULT. VINH BINH PROVINCE IN THE CENTRAL DELTA WAS AGAIN ACTIVE, AS WAS KIEN GIANG PROVINCE. IN CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE IN THE SOUTH GOVT FORCES CAUSED HEAVY COMMUNIST CASUALTIES IN A NUMBER OF SMALL UNIT CONTACTS. THE REVERSE WAS TRUE IN AN XUYEN PROVINCE, WHERE VC/NVA FORCES ATTACKED A NUMBER OF OUTLYING OUTPOSTS WITH FIVE BEING OUVERRUN CAUSING HEAVY GVN CASUALTIES. TWO OF THESE OPS WERE SUBSEQUENTLY RETAKEN.

END SUMMARY

PART II -- FPJMT, TPJMC AND RELATED MATTERS

THE DRV/"PRG" BOYCOTT OF THE FPJMT AND TPJMC CONTINUED INTO ITS EIGHTEENTH WEEK.

PART III -- COMMUNIST MEDIA COMMENT

A. COMMUNISTS DENOUNCE EMBASSY'S "ODIOUS SLANDERS" INITIAL COMMUNIST REACTION TO EMB SAIGON OCT 21 STATEMENT WAS PREDICTABLY VITRIOLIC. LIBERATION RADIO, IN A BROADCAST LATE THAT EVENING, CHARGED THAT THE STATEMENT REPEATED "ODIOUS SLANDERS" AIMED AT COVERING UP "US INVOLVEMENT AND INTERVENTION" IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND AT DISTRACTING ATTENTION FROM THE "DEMAND" BY ALL STRATA OF THE SOUTHERN POPULACE THAT PRES THIEU BE "OVERTHROWN". THE BROADCAST CLAIMED THAT THE EMB STATEMENT WOULD HAVE EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE EFFECT, THAT IS TO CAUSE ANTI-GVN ELEMENTS TO "FURTHER TIGHTEN THEIR RANKS" AND "RESOLUTELY STRUGGLE TO DEMAND THAT THIEU BE OVERTHROWN" AND THAT US "MILITARY INVOLVEMENT AND INTERVENTION IN SOUTH VIETNAM'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS" BE ENDED.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAIGON 13545 01 OF 05 231240Z

B. DRV FONMINISTRY ALLEGES MORE OVERFLIGHTS. ON OCT 18, THE DRV FONMINISTRY SPOKESMAN PROTESTED IN ROUTINE FASHION SR-71 SORTIES OVER "MANY PARTS OF NORTH VIETNAM", WHICH HAD ALLEGEDLY OCCURRED THAT DAY.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 13545 02 OF 05 231154Z

47

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 NEA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-04 ACDA-05 DPW-01 /082 W

----- 089444

R 231100Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9773

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB

CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER

COMUSMACHTAI

USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 5 SAIGON 13545

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 13545 02 OF 05 231154Z

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

PART IV - MR-1

1. SECURITY SITUATION:

I CORPS HEADQUARTERS BRIEFED 310 CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS THIS WEEK, AN INCREASE FROM LAST WEEK'S 267. ACTIVITY CONTINUES AT A RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL THROUGHOUT THE REGION EXCEPT IN SOUTHERN THUA THIEN AND IN QUANG NGAI. GVN CASUALTIES: 125 KIA; 564 WIA; 110 MIA. COMMUNIST LOSSES WERE: 245 KIA AND 2 RETURNEES. VNAF FLEW 50 COMBAT AIR SORTIES.

2. NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

OVERALL, ACTIVITY INCREASED SLIGHTLY DURING THE WEEK. QUANG TRI CONTINUED QUIET. ACTIVITY IN THUA THIEN CONSISTED PRIMARILY OF ABFS IN THE AREA OF MO TAU MOUNTAIN AND HILL 50. ON OCT 18, ELEMENT OF THE 4TH NVA REGIMENT OVERRAN SIX STRONG POINTS OF THE GVN 130TH RF BATTALION. ON OCT 19, GVN TROOPS RETOOK TWO OF THE LOST OUTPOSTS. GENERALLY, BAD WEATHER HAS HAMPERED BOTH GVN AND COMMUNIST ACTIVITY.

3. SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

IN QUANG NAM, THE HEAVIEST ACTIVITY HAS BEEN NORTH OF HILL 52 RESULTING IN HEAVY LOSSES ON BOTH SIDES AS A RESULT OF NUMEROUS GROUND CONTACTS AND MIXED ABFS. SAPPER ACTIVITY INCREASED RESULTING IN DAMAGE TO THE NAM O BRIDGE ON OCT 17 AND THE GIAO THUY BRIDGE ON OCT 18. BOTH WERE REPAIRED AFTER TRAFFIC WAS TEMPORARILY INTERRUPTED. VNAF IS CONDUCTING AN INVESTIGATION OF THE SUCCESSFUL SABOTAGE OF THREE CHINOOK HELICOPTERS AT DA NANG AIRBASE ON OCT 17. TWO TIMING DEVICES WERE REPORTED RECOVERED FROM OTHER NEARBY AIRCRAFT. DAMAGE TO THE THREE HELICOPTERS WAS LIGHT.

THERE WAS ONLY LIGHT ACTIVITY IN QUANG TIN. IN QUANG NGAI THE COMMUNISTS HAVE CONTINUED TO PUSH THEIR OPERATIONS TO CAPTURE LAND AND PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY IN EASTERN BINH SON DISTRICT. COMMUNIST FORCES CONTINUED PRESSURE ON GVN FORCES IN SOUTHERN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 13545 02 OF 05 231154Z

NGHIA HANH AND NORTHWESTERN MO DUC WHERE AN RF BATTALION IN BLOCKING POSITIONS NEAR Q.L. 1 WAS REPORTED HEAVILY ENGAGED AT THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD. FOUR CULVERTS ON Q.L. 1 WERE DESTROYED BUT WERE SUBSEQUENTLY REPAIRED. APPROXIMATELY 100 CIVILIANS ARE REPORTED TO HAVE MOVED FROM EASTERN BINH SON DISTRICT TO THE COMMUNIST CONTROLLED WESTERN AREAS OF THIS DISTRICT. THERE ARE CONFLICTING REPORTS WHETHER THIS WAS A VOLUNTARY OR FORCED MOVEMENT.

4. ICCS:

THERE WERE NO OBSERVATIONS CONDUCTED IN REGION I. IN REGION II
THE INDONESIANS AND IRANIANS CONDUCTED AN OBSERVATION OF THE
SITE OF DAMAGED NAM O BRIDGE.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 13545 03 OF 05 231217Z

47

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 NEA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-04 ACDA-05 DPW-01 /082 W

----- 089635

R 231100Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9774

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB

CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER

COMUSMACTHAI

USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 5 SAIGON 13545
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 13545 03 OF 05 231217Z

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

PART V - MR-2

1. SUMMARY: THERE WAS LITTLE CHANGE THIS WEEK IN THE CURRENT COMPARATIVELY LOW LEVEL OF MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR-II. THE ONLY EXCEPTION TO THE PREVAILING CALM WAS BINH DINH PROVINCE WHERE A REGIMENT OF THE 22ND ARVN DIVISION INFILTRATED THE AN LAO VALLEY AND INTERDICTED THE RESUPPLY CORRIDOR THERE. CORPS OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT THE COMMUNISTS ARE REGROUPING AFTER HAVING RECENTLY TAKEN HEAVY CASUALTIES IN BINH DINH AND PLEIKU, BUT CAN BE EXPECTED TO RESUME THE OFFENSIVE WITH ATTACKS DIRECTED AGAINST QL-19 AND PLEIKU CITY IN THE NEAR FUTURE. CORPS HEADQUARTERS REPORTED 65 COMMUNIST-INITIATED MILITARY INCIDENTS THIS WEEK VERSUS 39 THE WEEK BEFORE. GOVERNMENT FORCES LOST 61 KIA AND 42 WEAPONS AS COMPARED WITH 19 KIA AND 10 WEAPONS LOST THE PREVIOUS REPORTING PERIOD. COMMUNIST CASUALTIES WERE REPORTEDLY 142 KIA AND 41 WEAPONS LOST, DOWN SLIGHTLY FROM THE 162 KIA AND 54 WEAPONS CAPTURED LAST WEEK. HELICOPTER SORTIES FLOWN DROPPED 50 PERCENT WHILE THE USE OF OTHER AIR ASSETS REMAINED APPROXIMATELY THE SAME.

2. BINH DINH: ON OCT 16, THE 41ST REGT/22ND ARVN DIV CONDUCTED A SURPRISE ASSAULT INTO THE AN LAO VALLEY, DESTROYED A BRIDGE AT BS 764014 AND EFFECTIVELY INTERDICTED THE NVA'S NORTH-SOUTH SUPPLY ROUTE. COMMUNIST COUNTERATTACKS HAVE THUS FAR BEEN UNABLE TO DISLODGE THE GOVERNMENT TROOPS FROM THEIR POSITIONS ON THE EASTERN SLOPE OF THE VALLEY. PROVINCE IS ALSO EMPLOYING PF PLATOONS IN COMMANDO-TYPE RAIDS DIRECTED AGAINST THE AN LAO'S SUPPLY CORRIDOR. DURING THE WEEK, VC LOCAL FORCE BATTALIONS INFLECTED MODERATE LOSSES ON GVN TERRITORIALS DEFENDING VILLAGE HEADQUARTERS AND LOC'S IN PHU MY AND NORTHERN PHU CAT DISTRICTS. SEVERAL ROCKET ATTACKS ON PHU CAT AFB WERE OFF THEIR MARK. ON OCT 16, SAPPERS DESTROYED A BRIDGE ON QL-1 IN TAM QUAN DISTRICT. ARVN ENGINEERS SUCCEEDED BY OCT 20 IN RESTORING IT DESPITE HARASSMENT BY COMMUNIST ROCKET FIRE. THE SECTOR S-2 HAS INTELLIGENCE INDICATING THAT NVA ARTILLERY BATTALIONS HAVE ORDERS TO TEST THE EFFECTIVENESS OF RECENTLY RECEIVED 130MM GUNS AGAINST GOVERNMENT FORCES.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 13545 03 OF 05 231217Z

3. PLEIKU: THE 23RD AND 11TH RANGER BATTALIONS WEST OF PLEIKU CITY WERE SUBJECTED TO SMALL UNIT GROUND ASSAULTS AND MORTAR ATTACKS THIS WEEK. GOVERNMENT FORCES CONTINUE TO PATROL AGGRESSIVELY IN AN ATTEMPT TO LOCATE NVA UNITS. SECTOR AND CORPS INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS BELIEVE THE COMMUNISTS HAVE PULLED BACK INTO BASE CAMPS LOCATED IN THE WESTERN PART OF THE PROVINCE TO TRAIN AND EQUIP FOR ATTACKS TO BE CONDUCTED IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER.

4. BINH THUAN: SECTOR OFFICIALS STATE THAT THE DISPROPORTIONATE CASUALTIES INCURRED BY THE PROVINCE'S TERRITORIAL FORCES IN THE PAST THREE MONTHS HAS AFFECTED THEIR MORALE. NO SIGNIFICANT OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN INITIATED BY RF IN THIS PROVINCE RECENTLY. TO STRENGTHEN HIS FORCES, THE PROVINCE CHIEF HAS PLANS TO ORGANIZE A MOBILE REGIMENT (TO BE DESIGNATED THE 925TH") WHICH WILL CONSIST OF 3 RF BNS AND AN ARTILLERY BATTERY.

5. OTHER: MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE "RICE BOWL" OF PHU YEN REMAINS AT A LOW LEVEL UNPRECEDENTED FOR THE HARVEST PERIOD. ON OCT 15, THE GROUNDS OF THE D&E INDUSTRIAL COMPANY NEAR BA NGOI IN CAM RANH SPECIAL SECTOR, WERE INFILTRATED AND A QUANTITY OF ASPHALT ALONG WITH SEVERAL VEHICLES AND AN OFFICE TRAILER, WERE DESTROYED. IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER THIS ACTION WAS THE RESULT OF COMMUNIST SAPPERS OR OVERLY VIGOROUS LOCAL COMPETITION. VC TAXATION OF LOGGERS IN QUANG DUC IS HURTING TIMBER PRODUCTION. TWO GVN MILITARY OPERATIONS TARGETED AGAINST KPA KOI'S DISSIDENT FORCES IN DARLAC WERE CONCLUDED WITH LITTLE SUCCESS. THE OPERATIONS DID, HOWEVER, DISCOVER VC IN AREAS WHERE THEY HAD NOT BEEN BEFORE. AGGRESSIVE RECONNAISSANCE PATROLLING BY LAM DONG SECTOR TERRITORIAL FORCES PRECIPITATED SEVERAL CONTACTS WITH LOCAL VC FORCES.

6. ICCS: DORMANT.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 13545 04 OF 05 231238Z

47

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 NEA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-04 ACDA-05 DPW-01 /082 W

----- 089833

R 231100Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9775

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB

CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER

COMUSMACTHAI

USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 4 OF 5 SAIGON 13545

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 13545 04 OF 05 231238Z

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

PART VI - MR-3

1. SABOTAGE AND TERRORISM AGAIN DOMINATED NVA/VC MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR-3 THIS WEEK. AS NVA MAIN FORCES RESTED AND RE-FITTED, VC SAPPER GROUPS THROUGHOUT THE REGION BLEW BRIDGES, DESTROYED HAMLET OFFICES, STRUCK SMALL RF/PF OUTPOSTS, AND HIT ONE SCHOOL, THUS TERRORIZING CIVILIANS AS WELL AS THE ARMED FORCES. FOUR BRIDGES IN REGION III WERE DESTROYED, THE MOST NOTABLE OF WHICH WAS THE 805-METER HOA AN BRIDGE AT BIEN HOA CITY, ONE OF THE TWO MAJOR BRIDGES CONNECTING SAIGON WITH BIEN HOA AND MR'S 1 AND 2 TO THE NORTH. MR-3 HQS PREDICTS THE COMMUNISTS WILL CONCENTRATE MAINLY

ON SAPPER TERRORIST ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

2. THE TOTAL OF MILITARY INCIDENTS CONTINUED DOWNWARD REGISTERING 144 THIS WEEK COMPARED WITH 163 FOR THE LAST REPORTING PERIOD. MR-3 HQS REPORTED 35 GROUND CONTACTS (38 LAST WEEK), 44 ATTACKS BY FIRE (69 LAST WEEK), AND ONE COMBINED GROUND AND ABF. THERE WERE 23 MINING INCIDENTS AND 41 OTHER MISCELLANEOUS ACTIONS, INCLUDING 10 INCIDENTS OF SABOTAGE. ACTIVITY LESSENERD SOMEWHAT IN BINH DUONG WHERE 44 INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED COMPARED WITH 67 LAST WEEK. BIEN HOA RECORDED 15 WHILE HAU NGHIA HAD 18.

3. NVA/VC ARTILLERY AND MORTAR FIRINGS DECREASED FURTHER THIS WEEK, DROPPING FROM 963 ROUNDS LAST WEEK TO 624 THIS PERIOD. RVNAF EXPENDITURES ALSO DECREASED TO A TOTAL OF 5,526 ARTILLERY ROUNDS FIRED COMPARED WITH 6,097 ROUNDS LAST WEEK. VNAF FLEW 81 FIXED-WING SORTIES (13 BY F-5 AND 68 BY A-37). HELICOPTER GUNSHIPS FLEW 141 SUPPORT MISSIONS. ON THE MORNING OF OCTOBER 18, AN F-5A AIRCRAFT CRASHED NEAR BEN CAT DUE TO UNKNOWN CAUSES. THE AIRCRAFT WAS DESTROYED AND THE PILOT KILLED.

4. GVN CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED AS 67 KIA, 213 WIA, AND 8 MIA. NVA/VC LOSSES WERE 29 KIA, 2 CIA, AND 10 RALLIERS. IN ADDITION, VNAF REPORTED 47 NVA/VC KILLED BY AIR.

5. THE MOST NOTABLE INCIDENT THIS WEEK OCCURRED IN BIEN HOA PROVINCE DURING THE EARLY MORNING OF OCTOBER 21 WHEN SAPPERS DESTROYED A PYLON NEAR THE CENTER OF THE 805-METER HOA AN BRIDGE, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 13545 04 OF 05 231238Z

LOCATED ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF BIEN HOA CITY, CAUSING TWO SECTIONS TOTALLING 49 METERS TO COLLAPSE. THE BRIDGE WAS EXPECTED TO BE RE-OPENED FOR ONE-WAY TRAFFIC WITHIN 48 HOURS WITH THE INSTALLATION OF A TEMPORARY BAILEY BRIDGE. TWO DAYS EARLIER SAPPERS DYNAMITED A CULVERT ON ROUTE LTL 24 IN BIEN HOA'S CONG THANH DISTRICT BUT TRAFFIC WAS STILL ABLE TO PROCEED OVER THE ROAD AND THE CULVERT WAS QUICKLY RESTORED.

6. THE MOST TRAGIC SCHOOL INCIDENT SINCE CAI LAY IN MR-4 SEVERAL MONTHS AGO OCCURRED IN HAU NGHIA PROVINCE WHERE VC GUERRILLAS DETONATED A CLAYMORE MINE NEXT TO THE PRIMARY SCHOOL OF LOC KHE HAMLET KILLING 5 CHILDREN AND WOUNDING 17 OTHERS.

7. COMMUNIST EMPHASIS ON GUERRILLA STRIKES WAS MOST APPARENT IN GIA DINH PROVINCE THIS WEEK. THREE VILLAGE OFFICES, TWO WITHIN 10 KMS OF SAIGON, WERE DAMAGED BY SAPPER ATTACKS WITH GOVERNMENT LOSSES OF ONE KILLED AND 6 WOUNDED. IN BINH CHANH DISTRICT TWO SECONDARY BRIDGES WERE DESTROYED, ONE ON INTER-PROVINCIAL ROUTE 10 WEST OF SAIGON ON THE ROAD TO DUC HOA, AND A SECOND ON INTER-PROVINCIAL ROUTE 233 SOUTHWEST OF CHOLON. TWO 105 HOWITZERS LOCATED WITHIN THE BINH CHANH SUBSECTOR

WERE SEVERELY DAMAGED BY EXPLOSIVE CHARGES DETONATED BY A COMMUNIST SABOTEUR DURING THE EARLY MORNING OF OCTOBER 18. ON THE PREVIOUS DAY COMMUNIST TERRORISTS GUNNED DOWN A GROUP OF LOCAL MILITARY AND CIVILIAN OFFICIALS AT LUNCH IN A HUNG LONG VILLAGE RESTAURANT IN BINH CHANH. THE DEPUTY SUB-SUBSECTOR COMMANDER AND 3 CIVILIANS WERE KILLED WHILE THE SUB-SUBSECTOR COMMANDER, THE POLICE CHIEF, THE HAMLET CHIEF, AND THE DEPUTY VILLAGE CHIEF WERE WOUNDED.

8. BINH DUONG PROVINCE MAINTAINED ITS POSITION AS THE MOST ACTIVE PROVINCE IN MR-3. DURING THE PERIOD OCTOBER 19 TO 20 IT EXPERIENCED THREE GROUND ATTACKS AND TWO ABFS. ARVN LOSSES IN THESE ATTACKS WERE 4 KILLED AND 8 WOUNDED WHILE THE NVA SUFFERED 13 KILLED. IN THE BEN CAT AREA OF BINH DUONG THERE WERE LIGHT CLASHES BETWEEN NVA FORCES WHICH STILL HOLD ON TO RACH BAP AND ARVN ELEMENTS PROBING OUT FROM OUTPOST 82. SUOI VOI POST, 11 KMS NORTHEAST OF THE BINH DUONG CAPITAL, REPORTED LIGHT CASUALTIES AFTER 4 DAYS OF MORTAR AND RECOILLESS RIFLE SHELLING. ON OCTOBER 18 PHU GIAO DISTRICT TOWN SUFFERED A MAJOR SHELLING OF 40 ARTILLERY ROUNDS RESULTING IN ONE DEAD
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAIGON 13545 04 OF 05 231238Z

AND 5 WOUNDED.

9. IN LONG AN PROVINCE ON OCTOBER 17 A VC WATER MINE EXPLODED AT RACH NOI BRIDGE 10 KMS NORTHEAST OF BEN LUC DISTRICT TOWN INTERDICTING TRAFFIC ON SECONDARY ROUTE 225. TWO RF SOLDIERS WERE WOUNDED AND TWO WERE REPORTED MISSING. IN CAN DUOC DISTRICT AN NVA/VC FORCE ENTERED BINH KHUNG HAMLET AND ABDUCTED THE HAMLET CHIEF, HIS ASSISTANT AND 6 PSDF MEMBERS.

10. REGIONAL FORCES IN BOTH LONG KHANH AND BINH TUY SAW ACTION THIS WEEK. ON OCTOBER 19 LONG KHANH FORCES OPERATING 3 KMS NORTH OF XUAN LOC CAPITAL ENGAGED AN NVA/VC FORCE FOR THREE HOURS RESULTING IN RF LOSSES OF 7 KILLED AND 10 WOUNDED WITH 5 NVA/VC REPORTED DEAD. IN BINH TUY'S TANH LINH DISTRICT THREE RF COMPANIES CLASHED ON OCT 18 WITH AN NVA/VC COMPANY-SIZE FORCE FOR FIVE HOURS LEAVING 4 RF KILLED, 4 WOUNDED AND ONE MISSING WITH 6 COMMUNIST DEAD AND ONE CAPTURED.

11. ICCS: A FIRST OCCURRED IN ICCS REGION V ON OCTOBER 18 WHEN IRANIAN ICCS MEMBERS FROM THE TAN AN SUBREGIONAL SITE, BY THEMSELVES, CONDUCTED AN OBSERVATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE VC SAPPER ATTACK ON THE RACH NOI BRIDGE IN LONG AN. INDODEL EXPLAINED THEIR ABSENCE FROM THIS OBSERVATION WAS CAUSED BY THE FACT THAT ALL INDONESIAN TAN AN MEMBERS WERE AT BIEN HOA HQS AT THE TIME THE OPERATION WAS SCHEDULED. BOTH THE IRANIAN AND INDONESIAN DELEGATIONS CONDUCTED OBSERVATIONS OF THE COMMUNIST BOMBING OF THE HAU NGHIA SCHOOL HOUSE AND THE DESTRUCTION OF BIEN HOA'S HOA AN BRIDGE.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 13545 05 OF 05 231259Z

47

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 NEA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-04 ACDA-05 DPW-01 /082 W

----- 090005

R 231100Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9776

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB

CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER

COMUSMACTHAI

USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 5 OF 5 SAIGON 13545

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 13545 05 OF 05 231259Z

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

PART VII - MR-4

1. SECURITY SITUATION: (A) OVERALL SECURITY: MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE DELTA APPEARED TO REACH ITS PEAK FOR THE OCTOBER HIGHPOINT, AND BY THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD, NUMBER OF INCIDENTS HAD DROPPED TO NORMAL END-OF-MONTH LEVEL. ACCORDING TO MR4 G-2, HIGHPOINT NOW ENDING WAS ONE OF WEAKEST IN PAST SEVERAL MONTHS WITH NEITHER SIDE SIGNIFICANTLY CHANGING SECURITY SITUATION. CORPS REPORTS 344 VC/NVA-INITIATED INCIDENTS (296 LAST WEEK) CONSISTING OF 51 GROUND ATTACKS (45), ONE INFILTRATION (3), 210 ABF'S (161), 63 HARASSMENTS (72), 12 SABOTAGE (10), 6 TERRORIST (5), AND ONE BETRAYAL (NONE). GVN LOSSES INCREASED SLIGHTLY TO 149 KIA (130), 673 WIA (627), 50 MIA (88), AND 3 CREW-SERVED (5) AND 255 INDIVIDUAL (206) WEAPONS LOST. CORPS CLAIMS 442 VC/NVA KILLED (453), 34 PRISONERS AND SUSPECTS CAPTURED (17), AND 14 CREW-SERVED (13) AND 102 INDIVIDUAL (173) WEAPONS SEIZED.

(B) NORTHERN DELTA: IN KIEN PHONG PROVINCE, FIGHTING CONTINUED TO BE SCATTERED WITH NO APPARENT FOCUS OF VC/NVA ATTENTION. DESPITE THREE MINING INCIDENTS, INTERPROVINCIAL ROUTE 30 IS AGAIN OPEN FROM THE PROVINCE CAPITAL TO THE DINH TUONG PROVINCE BORDER; TWO BLOWN BRIDGES IN DINH TUONG STILL INTERDICT THROUGH TRAFFIC TO HIGHWAY 4. SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY IN DINH TUONG WAS DIRECTED MOSTLY AGAINST LOC'S; ONLY ONE OP WAS REPORTED ABANDONED UNDER PRESSURE IN SE SAM GIANG (D). IN A RARE INCIDENT, AN ARVN JEEP HIT A MINE ON HIGHWAY 4 AT NOON NEAR THE CHAU THANH/SAM GIANG DISTRICT BORDER. ALSO ON HIGHWAY 4, A CIVILIAN GASOLINE TRUCK WAS HIT BY A B-40 ROUND IN THE EVENING IN CAI BE (D). IN KIEN TUONG PROVINCE, THE ONLY GVN UNIT TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT CONTACT WAS THE 502 RF BN WHICH KILLED 7 VC AND CAPTURED ONE IN TWO CONTACTS IN TUYEN BINH (D). KIEN TUONG PROVINCE CHIEF HAS REPORTEDLY PROMISED BUS OWNERS TO SECURE ROUTE 29 FROM MOC HOA TO THE DINH TUONG BORDER. INCIDENTS ON THIS ROAD HAVE AVERAGED ONE PER WEEK SINCE EARLY AUGUST. CHAU DOC PROVINCE EXPERIENCED A SHARP INCREASE IN ABF'S IN AN PHU, TRI TON AND TINH BIEN DISTRICTS, BUT THEY CAUSED FEW CASUALTIES AND LITTLE DAMAGE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 13545 05 OF 05 231259Z

(C) CENTRAL DELTA: IN KIEN HOA PROVINCE, AN OUTPOST IN THANH PHU (D) AND A HAMLET OFFICE IN HUONG MY (D) WERE OVERRUN WITH TOTAL GVN CASUALTIES OF 6 KIA, 5 WIA AND 13 MIA. IN THE ONLY OTHER GROUND ATTACK, A COMPANY-SIZED VC ATTACK ON THE HIEP HUNG VILLAGE HQ, GIONG TROM (D) KILLED TWO CIVILIANS, BUT 5 VC WERE KILLED BY THE VILLAGE CHIEF'S COUNTER-ATTACK. VC/NVA ACTIVITY IN KIEN HOA CONTINUES TO CONSIST MAINLY OF TERRORISM AND HARASSMENTS BUT GROUND ATTACKS ARE BECOMING MORE COMMON AND ARE REPORTEDLY HAVING AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON GVN MORALE. VINH BINH PROVINCE REMAINED ACTIVE. MOST SIGNIFICANT WAS THE LOSS OF LONG VINH (V), LONG TOAN (D) AFTER MORTARINGS AND GROUND ATTACKS WHICH LASTED MOST OF OCTOBER 19. THE VILLAGE HAS NOT YET BEEN RETAKEN. IN NEIGHBORING VINH LONG PROVINCE, 4 OP'S, 3 WATCHTOWERS, AND ONE PSDF POSITION WERE OVEPRUN OR ABANDONED UNDER PRESSURE. THESE INCIDENTS OCCURRED IN EVERY DISTRICT EXCEPT TRA ON, AND IN FOUR OF THEM THERE WERE NO GVN CASUALTIES. THE CORPS COMMANDER IS PARTICULARLY UPSET AT THE NUMBER OF WATCHTOWERS LOST, AND TOLD HIS STAFF THIS WEEK THAT LIGHTLY-DEFENDED WATCHTOWERS DO NOT BELONG IN AREAS WHERE THEY ARE LIKELY TO BE ATTACKED. IN PHONG DINH PROVINCE, THE 31ST REGIMENT/21ST ARVN DIVISION KILLED 34 VC/NVA IN SOUTHERN PHONG THUAN (D); 94 VC/NVA WERE REPORTED KILLED THERE IN A SERIES OF CONTACTS BETWEEN OCTOBER 13 AND 17. PHONG THUAN, PHUNG HIEP AND THUAN NHON DISTRICT TOWNS WERE ALL SHELLED, KILLING 2 CIVILIANS AND WOUNDING 33. ANOTHER MORTARING WOUNDED 20 ARVN AT THE 14TH REGIMENT CP IN THUAN TRUNG

(D). ACTIVITY IN KIEN GIANG PROVINCE WAS HIGHEST IN KIEN TAN (D) WHERE THE 529 RF BN IS TRYING TO PUSH VC/NVA UNITS AWAY FROM CANALS 7 AND 8 NEAR THE KIEN BINH DISTRICT BORDER. THE BATTALION KILLED 5 VC AND CAPTURED 13 PRISONERS AND SUSPECTS. SAPPERS BLEW THREE MORE CARATERS, DAMAGED ANOTHER BRIDGE AND DESTROYED A CULVERT ON ROUTE 80 BETWEEN RACH GIA AND KIEN LUONG. TRAFFIC TO HA TIEN REMAINS INTERDICTED. ON THE ADJOINING CANAL, FOUR HA TIEN CEMENT PLANT BARGES AND A PRIVATE DREDGE WERE SUNK, AND SAPPERS ALSO BLEW UP THREE CEMENT PLANT FUEL STORAGE TANKS IN KIEN LUONG DISTRICT TOWN.

(D) SOUTHERN DELTA: IN BA XUYEN PROVINCE, MY QUOI VILLAGE HQ IN NGA NAM WAS OVERRUN AND HAS NOT YET BEEN RETAKEN. OTHER ACTIVITY WAS CONCENTRATED IN SOUTHERN NGA NAM (D) AND LONG PHU (D).
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAIGON 13545 05 OF 05 231259Z

IN BAC LIEU PROVINCE, THE PROVINCE CAPITAL RECEIVED 5X82MM ROUNDS WHICH KILLED 4 CIVILIANS AND WOUNDED 6. THE ROUNDS WERE BELIEVED TO BE FIRED FROM A POINT 4 KM NORTH OF BAC LIEU AND ONE KM E OF HIGHWAY 4. AN OP IN SOUTHERN PHUOC LONG (D) WAS OVERRUN, APPARENTLY WITH INSIDE HELP; 7 PF WERE KIA, 6 WIA AND 5 MIA. IN CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE, VC/NVA ACTIVITY CONSISTED MOSTLY OF ABF'S WHICH CAUSED LIGHT CASUALTIES AND DAMAGE. GVN FORCES INFLICTED HEAVY CASUALTIES ON THE OTHER SIDE IN A SERIES OF SMALL-UNIT CONTACTS

SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE. ACTIVITY IN AN XUYEN PROVINCE INCREASED SHARPLY, WITH VC/NVA FORCES RENEWING ATTACKS ON OUTLYING OP'S NEAR INFILTRATION ROUTES IN SONG ONG DOC AND HAI YEN DISTRICTS. FIVE OP'S IN THESE DISTRICTS WERE OVERRUN WITH HEAVY GVN CASUALTIES; TWO HAVE SINCE BEEN RETAKEN. ELSEWHERE IN THE PROVINCE, A NAVY TANKER WAS SUNK BY B-40 ROUNDS IN NORTHERN THOI BINH (D). TWO ARVN BATTALIONS HAVE NOW BEEN SENT ON PATROLS IN THE AREA.

2. GVN AFFAIRS: KIEN PHONG PROVINCE HAS REQUESTED CONCURRENCE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW DISTRICT IN EXISTING EASTERN HONG NGU (D) TO INCLUDE TWO VILLAGES OF TUYEN BINH (D), KIEN TUONG (P). MUCH OF THE AREA IS VIRTUALLY INACCESSIBLE TO GVN AUTHORITIES DURING FLOOD SEASON. PART OF THE PROPOSED PLAN INVOLVES DREDGING OF TWO CANALS TO THE AREA TO IMPROVE WATER TRANSPORTATION.

3. ICCS AFFAIRS: MOC HOA INDONESIAN AND IRANIAN TEAMS HAVE OBSERVED TWO BUS MINING INCIDENTS ON ROUTE 29 IN KIEN TUONG (P). INDO REP EXAMINED AN UNEXPLODED MINE FOUND NEAR ONE OF THE INCIDENTS AND REPORTED ROCK, BROKEN GLASS AND BAMBOO CHIPS MIXED WITH C-4. LACK OF METAL (EXCEPT SMALL FIRING PIN) MAKES DETECTION DIFFICULT.
MARTIN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMISTICE, COMBAT OPERATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SAIGON13545
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740302-0413
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741023/aaaaatco.tel
Line Count: 786
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 15
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <11 MAR 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VIETNAM WEEKLY CEASEFIRE ASSESSMENT, OCT 16-22, 1974 PART I - SUMMARY
TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005